

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 22-26, 28-30, 33, 34, 37-39 and 54 are pending, of which claims 1, 22, 26, 33, 39, and 54 are independent. For those claims not pending, they have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 26, 28-30, 33-34, 38-39 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Olstad et al. (US 20020032772).

Claims 22-25, 32 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olstad in view of Sanderson M. et al. copyright 1997 ACM (hereafter Sanderson).

The above rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Examiner Interview

The undersigned appreciates Examiner Cindy Nguyen for her courtesy during an office interview on August 19, 2008.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102 & §103

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 26, 28-30, 33-34, 38-39 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Olstad et al. (US 20020032772).

Claims 22-25, 32 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olstad in view of Sanderson.

As noted in the interview summary of record, the examiner has indicated that the references of record fail to teach or suggest,

"calculating a popularity transition degree indicating both a direction and a degree of transition of the popularity degree for each of the extracted documents based on the popularity degree during the first time period and the second time period, to thereby obtain a difference indicating how the popularity degree of each of the documents changes in a time series order."

As discussed in the interview, the above-noted features are recited or similarly recited in independent claims 1, 22, 26, 33, 39, and 54. Thus, the references of record fail to teach or suggest these claims and their dependent claims.

Accordingly, claims 1-3, 6-9, 22-26, 28-30, 33, 34, 37-39 and 54 are allowable over the references of record.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would assist in resolving any issues pertaining to the allowability of the above-identified application, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. Please grant any required extensions of time and charge any fees due in connection with this request to deposit account no. 50-4610.

PATENT

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Respectfully submitted,

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